Achievements of the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation for Defence Purposes

556. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what activities are being undertaken by the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation in the areas of micro-electronics and opto-electronic and opto-mechanical systems for special defence applications;

(b) to what extent these developments would contribute for self-sufficiency in our defence requirement; and

(c) what are the future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Central Scientific Instruments Organisation, inter-alia, has developed for defence: Head-up display (HUD) for Light Combat Aircraft, 35 mm Mini Pan Camera for Remotely Piloted Vehicle (RPV) and Projection Units of Plotting Tables for KAMORTA Class Ships.

(b) These developments will lead to self-sufficiency for these items to meet defence requirements.

(c) The programme for defence application include development of Charged Coupled Devices (CCD)-Based Cameras and HUDs for other defence aircrafts.

Safety Upgradation of Nuclear Power Plants

557. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of nuclear power plants in the country are unsafe and accident-prone needing safety upgradation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to upgrade the plant safety to avoid any mishap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The nuclear power plants in operation in the country are not unsafe. We have also had a good record of safety.

(c) Safety upgradation is being taken up in the older plants to counter the effects of ageing and to meet the revised standards of safety due to advances in technology. The performance of all safety related components and systems of these installations is under continuous review and monitoring. Areas of possible upgradation of safety have been identified by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) and an action plan is being evolved with a schedule of implementation having regard to the urgency and importance of each issue. Comprehensive inservice inspection and necessary modifications wherever required have been carried out in the plants in the past and are continued to ensure overall safety.

Risk of Earthquaks to BARC

558. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report entitled "BARK" faces fresh risk of earthquake, published in the Indian Express, New Delhi, dated the 29th March, 1996;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Trombay site of Bhabha Atomic